



## 9/30/2022 OCT Statewide Landowners Group Meeting Participants, Action Items and Discussion notes

The agenda, materials and presentation from the 9/30/22 meeting is available online at <https://orsolutions.org/meeting-materials-and-background>

### Next meetings:

- Friday, January 20 2023 Noon – 2:00 (Salem)
  - The OCT Project Advisory Group will meet prior from 9-11 a.m.
- April/May 2023 (Time and Location TBD)

### ATTENDING:

Co-convener Oregon Parks Commissioner Douglas Deur (by Zoom)  
 Co-convener State Representative David Brock Smith

### Oregon Solutions Project Team members and alternates including:

OCT Segment Team - North	Erin Skaar, Team convener, Tillamook County Commissioner
OCT Segment Team - South	Melissa Cribbins, Team convener, Coos County Commissioner
ODOT	Karyn Criswell, Administrator, Public Transportation Division
ODOT	Arla Miller, Regional Transit Coordinator
OPRD	JR Collier, Deputy Director for Operations
OPRD	Dennis Comfort, Coastal Units Manager
OPRD	Chris Parkins, Coastal Park Resource Program Manager
OPRD	Jenna Marmon, Planning & Design Lead
OCVA	Jesse Dolin, Central Coast Destination Coordinator (by Zoom)
USFS Siuslaw NF/Oregon Dunes	Kevin Bruce, Recreation Program Manager (by Zoom)
	Trevor Robinson, Recreation Planner (by Zoom)
USFWS Oregon Coast Complex	Kate Iaquinto, Deputy Project Leader
BLM: NW Oregon District	Matt Betenson, Yaquina Head Site Manager
Coquille Indian Tribe	Gabi Bratt, Cultural Resources Technician (by Zoom)
US Senator Merkely's Office	Dahna Black, Field Representative
Oregon Coast Trail Foundation	Aron Bosworth, Board member
DLCD	Claire Fiegenger, Coastal Zone Management Program

### Interested parties including:

OCT advocates group	Dan Hilburn (by Zoom)
National Coast Trail Association	Al LePage, Director
Oregon Trails Coalition	Steph Nolls, Director (by Zoom)

### The Project Team staff and technical assistance support including:

AOC/County Solutions	Keith Tymchuk (by Zoom)
AOC/County Solutions	Andy Smith, Director
Parametrix	Ryan Farncomb (by Zoom)
Western Federal Lands, FHWA	Cole Grisham, Community Transportation Planner
Oregon Solutions	Pete Dalke, Project Manager



#### Action Items include:

- The Action Plan is now scheduled to be finalized early next year so it can be presented during the 2023 Legislative session.
- Oregon Solutions: complete a draft OCT governance structure for review and discussion at the next meeting, Include the Oregon Coast Trail Foundation.
- All: Review the Declaration of Cooperation for implementation of the Action Plan and provide support statements and suggestions to Oregon Solutions for adding to the document.
- All: Continue to consider proposed legislation for the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session to further leverage funding for new projects and maintenance needs of the Trail. Share concepts.
- DLCD Coastal Zone Program: complete review of OCT mentions in local planning documents.
- Western Federal Lands and BLM: arrange a Federal Lands Access Program learning session.
- Western Federal Lands and OPRD: Provide a summary of comments from the online OCT open house and webinar sessions.
- ODOT/OCVA/OPRD: More discussion about including public transit access points for trail users and how best to share that information (e.g. on-line maps, websites, locally).

#### Takeaways from the meeting include:

There was no mention of insurmountable roadblocks to concurring with the Action Plan and working toward implementation. Two themes that kept bubbling to the surface:

- Trail governance. Completing new projects, on-going operations and maintenance responsibilities. Several people mentioned that ‘if everyone is in charge, no one is in charge.’ Someone(s) will need to accept responsibilities for action plan projects as well as operating and maintaining the OCT particularly where it is outside OPRD and USFS jurisdictions, and places where it’s not clear that an entity has taken on that responsibility. OPRD is excited, committed, and willing to staff this effort to finish/maintain the OCT, but they’ll need partners. OPRD suggests considering the Lower Deschutes River Management Plan as a model for OCT governance structure.
- Funding. The total funds needed to close the remaining gaps will be considerable; “millions and millions.” Though this was brought up as a challenge, several people spoke about potential funding sources and the need for a strategy to tap them in an optimal way.

On-going discussions among the landowners and stakeholders are needed to:

- Clarify proposed legislation anticipated to be introduced in the 2023 session. Specifically, will the proposed legislation grow funding for trails in Oregon, or take available trail funding and direct it to the OCT?  
House Bill 3281 introduced in the 2021 session would have provided, if passed, \$1M from the General Fund “for continued development of the Oregon Coast Trail”. The bill would have also amended legislation passed in the 2019 Legislative session that directed up to \$4M of Lottery Revenues to bike and pedestrian trails. The HB 3281 language would amend the 2019 legislation (HB 2592) to set a limit that “not more than \$1M of the (up to \$4M) funding...shall be directed toward ...qualifying projects of the Oregon Coast Trail.” If HB 3281 language is passed,



the result may be \$1M in new trail funding solely for the OCT and concurrently a limit placed on the amount of existing funding (up to \$1M out of \$4M) that would be available for the OCT. (Note: ODOT staff discussed HB2592 with the Landowner Group at its November 2019 meeting, The \$4M funding sunsets January 2, 2025.)

- Consider if there is support for using transient lodging taxes to support the OCT.
- Consider the next steps with FLAP grants for the OCT, noting that some Action Plan projects may not meet FLAP eligibility criteria.
- Creatively explore other funding avenues and leveraging opportunities with Federal and State partners (e.g. Great American Outdoors Act, Community Paths, Safe Routes to Schools).
- Address What, when and by whom? Provide understanding of how project priorities will be established and communicated so that funding and resource requests are coordinated and not competing. It was pointed out that the gaps exist because there are few easy answers. There is the need for trail governance so that priorities are carefully and fairly chosen, and all possible funding sources are considered. In general, Segment Teams members and their stakeholders are excited by this project and supportive. Bandon Dunes Golf Course was held up as an example -- they have offered to let the trail go through some of their land.
- Consider how to coordinate and advance Action Plan project implementation concurrently along the north, mid- and south coast geographies.
- Clarify branding of the Trail, and how that relates to the OCT Foundation and overlapping efforts (like the Salmonberry Trail).
- Address the need for a point person for implementing the Action Plan as well as staff in agencies and locally to align priorities, projects and funding pots. Finding the staff that can identify the right projects for the right funding, with the right partners, right match, and timing for the right ask to the right agencies/funders will be a challenge. Related: How to fund the needed staff capacity, starting with a “point person” for the OCT.
- Address any NEPA needs for completing connections that have a nexus with federal lands.
- Identify help with acquiring trail easements across private lands.

The OCT Foundation is stepping up capacity to be the key non-profit and a funding partner for the OCT. Their website is at <https://www.oregoncoasttrail.org/mission> Recruitment is underway for additional Board members to create a “team of funders” who will be able to help bring in significant private funding. The Foundation wants to be able to be nimble with leveraging resources particularly for project gap funding. In keeping with the Foundation’s priorities, some funding assistance is currently being provided to Trail Keepers of Oregon.